

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed June 19, 2006. Claims 1 – 21 were pending, and the Office Action rejected all claims. Specifically, Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,440,624 (Schoof) and U.S. Patent No. 5,999,208 (McNerney). Claims 2 – 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schoof, McNerney, and Minnenman “A Confederation of Tools for Capturing and Accessing Collaborative Activity.”

As discussed in the previous responses, the present invention, as claimed, has an “attendant electronic equipment” comprising certain elements. The prior art of record does not disclose that each attendant electronic equipment comprises the specific elements listed. Specifically, Schoof is cited as disclosing an attendant electronic equipment having “an equipment management unit for managing the state of each electronic equipment connected to the communication network” (citing Schoof at Col. 3, lines 20 – 45) and “a proceedings control unit for obtaining information for preparing the proceedings by using the contents of the presentation presented by the presentation unit” (Col. 6, lines 64 – 68). However, the cited sections do not support the rejections of these limitations. Both of these limitations are specifically required to be part of the “attendant electronic equipment” and not part of the system controller and/or server. The cited references to Schoof only disclose these limitations as part of a system controller and not part of each of the attendant electronic equipment. As shown in Fig. 7 of the present invention, a server 11 has certain components, but each attendant electronic equipment 14 has separate components, including a proceedings control unit and equipment management unit (authentication/management unit).

The Schoof reference simply fails to disclose that any of the data/voice/fax terminals include these components and/or functionality. The noted citations simply refer to the conference controller 130, and not to the attendant terminals. For example, at Col. 3, lines 20 – 45, the “conference administration system” executes the rule base. There is no support that each attendant terminal has the ability to perform an equipment management function.

Similarly, at Col 6, lines 64 – 68, the “complete archived record of the conference is maintained within conference controller 130 and its digital memory (11, 12, and 13), and access is permitted, optionally, to the archived record either during the conference or anytime after completion of the conference.” Thus, only the controller 130 has the ability to direct the proceedings. There is no disclosure that each attendant terminal has the ability to control the proceedings, as specifically claimed in the present claims.

Moreover, the present independent claims have been amended to include the limitation

wherein the display (unit) has a separate area for icon display of the generating electronic equipment and an area for icon display of the output electronic equipment, thus providing the icon display of the generating electronic equipment and the icon display of the output electronic equipment

This limitation specifically states that the icon display area is a separate area. This limitation has previously been found to be allowable in related case Serial No. 10/042,502.

For at least these reasons, the present claims are believed to now be in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference will expedite the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney and the noted telephone number.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees (or credit any overpayment) associated with this communication and which may be required under 37 CFR §1.78 to Deposit Account No. 50-2603, **referencing Attorney Docket No. 352738.00400.**

A duplicate sheet is attached.

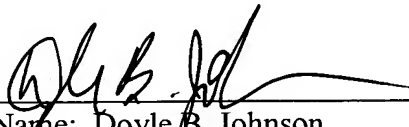
Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as Express mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, US Patent & Trademark Office, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on November 20, 2006.

Dated: Nov. 20, 2006


Norma E. Gillespie